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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/659,258 | 09/11/2000 | Gregory Richard Hintermeister | IBM/155 | 5587 |

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| EXAMINER |
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PILLAI, NAMITHA

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2173

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/659,258

Applicant(s)

HINTERMEISTER ET AL.

Examiner

Namitha Pillai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 September 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1-7, 8-13, 15-20, 23-28, 30-33, 35-38 and 40-41 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6, 664, 985 B1 (Bormann et al.), herein referred to as Bormann.

Referring to claim 1, Bormann discloses a method for managing computer hardware components by displaying a pictorial representation on a computer display with a plurality of hardware components and representing a physical configuration of each of the plurality of hardware components (Figure 4). Bormann also discloses indicating a selected status for hardware components from the plurality of hardware components within the pictorial representation with the plurality of hardware components (Figure 4 and column 3, lines 21-26).

Referring to claims 2 and 24, Bormann discloses a diagram of at least one enclosure within which the plurality of hardware components is disposed, further depicting a physical location of each of the plurality of hardware components in the enclosure (Figure 4 and column 6, lines 8-11).

Referring to claims 3 and 25, Bormann discloses a first view of the enclosure taken from a first viewpoint and wherein the pictorial representation further includes a second diagram

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depicting a second view of the enclosure taken from a second viewpoint (Figure 5 and column 6, lines 8-11).

Referring to claims 4 and 26, Bormann discloses an unused interface component which is used to configure physically interconnect with another hardware component further comprising managing the used user interface component through user input directed to the pictorial representation, as shown by the links shown in Figure 4 connecting the components together which can be manipulated by the user, as it is part of the glyphs (column 4, lines 40-44).

Referring to claims 5 and 27, Bormann discloses that each of the plurality of hardware components is associated with at least one attribute and a method to compare attributes associated with the plurality of hardware components against a filter criterion and selecting those hardware components associated with the attributes that match the filter criterion, the filter criterion being user's filtering methods for choosing one component wherein one component is chosen leaving the other components filtered out (column 4, lines 40-45).

Referring to claims 6 and 28, Bormann discloses that user input is used for generating the filter criterion (column 4, lines 40-45).

Referring to claim 8, Bormann discloses that each hardware component is associated with a hardware type and the filter criterion identifies a selected hardware type, wherein selecting those hardware components includes selecting those hardware components associated with the selected hardware type, wherein the filter criterion based on the user input chooses a component that would inherently be associated with a hardware type thereby with the selection, having an identification means for identifying the hardware type (column 4, lines 40-45).

Referring to claim 9, Bormann discloses updating the indication of the selected status for the hardware components responsive to selection of those hardware components associated with attributes that match the filter criterion, wherein in addition to the highlighting the updating of the selected status includes displaying additional information concerning the component chosen (column 4, lines 40-45).

Referring to claims 10 and 30, Bormann discloses that each of the plurality of hardware components is associated with at least one of a plurality of diagrams, each of which depicting a physical location of at least one of the plurality of hardware components (Figure 5). Bormann also discloses displaying within this pictorial representation only those diagrams from the plurality of diagrams that depict the physical location of at least one hardware component having a selected status, wherein the highlighted components in each of the diagrams shows that the diagrams that are displayed are ones that depict the physical location of at least one component that has a selected status (Figure 5).

Referring to claims 11 and 31, Bormann discloses visually highlighting those portions of the pictorial representation that depict the physical configurations of the multiple hardware components that have a selected status (column 3, lines 21-26).

Referring to claims 12 and 32, Bormann discloses updating the status of a hardware component to one of selected status and an unselected status responsive to user input directed to that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of the first hardware component, wherein an unselected component that is clicked on by the user on the pictorial representation would then have a selected status, thereby showing the selected and unselected status of a hardware component based on user input (column 4, lines 40-45).

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Referring to claims 13 and 33, Bormann discloses performing a management operation on each of the multiple hardware components that have a selected status responsive to user input (column 6, lines 28-35).

Referring to claims 16 and 35, Bormann discloses a list of available management operations associated with a hardware component among the plurality of hardware component in response to user input directed to that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of the first hardware component (column 6, lines 28-35).

Referring to claims 17 and 36, Bormann discloses displaying a list of available management operations within a context sensitive menu and initiating one of the available management operations on the hardware component in response to user input directed to the context sensitive menu (column 6, lines 28-35).

Referring to claims 18 and 37, Bormann discloses retrieving status information associated with a first hardware component among the plurality of hardware components in response to user input directed to that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of the first hardware component (column 4, lines 40-45).

Referring to claims 19, Bormann discloses including locating a user-manipulated pointer over that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of the hardware component and displaying the retrieved status information within a pop-up window disposed proximate that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of the hardware component (column 4, lines 40-45).

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Referring to claims 20 and 38, Bormann discloses that the pictorial representation and indicating the selected status are performed on a single computer, wherein all the needed information is contained within that single computer (column 8, lines 35-40).

Referring to claims 23, Bormann discloses a program residing in memory (column 9, lines 39-41). Bormann discloses a method for managing computer hardware components by displaying a pictorial representation on a computer display with a plurality of hardware components and representing a physical configuration of each of the plurality of hardware components (Figure 4). Bormann also discloses indicating a selected status for hardware components from the plurality of hardware components within the pictorial representation with the plurality of hardware components (Figure 4 and column 3, lines 21-26).

Referring to claim 40, Bormann discloses a program residing in memory (column 9, lines 39-41). Bormann discloses a method for managing computer hardware components by displaying a pictorial representation on a computer display with a plurality of hardware components and representing a physical configuration of each of the plurality of hardware components (Figure 4). Bormann also discloses indicating a selected status for hardware components from the plurality of hardware components within the pictorial representation with the plurality of hardware components (Figure 4 and column 3, lines 21-26). Bormann also discloses a signal-bearing medium bearing the program (column 8, lines 35-40).

Referring to claim 41, Bormann discloses that the signal-bearing medium includes at least one of a recordable medium and a transmission medium (column 8, lines 35-40).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 7, 14-15, 21-22, 29, 34, 39 and 42-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bormann and U. S. Patent No. 5,768,552 (Jacoby), herein referred to as Jacoby.

Referring to claims 7 and 29, Bormann does not specifically disclose that the user may choose the type of filter criteria from a plurality of filter criterion. Jacoby discloses a means through which a user may choose from among a plurality of filter criterion, the criterion being amongst one of the scroll bar through which the user can manipulate the viewing window to display the components of interest to the user. The user of Jacoby would chose one of the filter criterion that is associated with a predetermined view among a plurality of views that may be displayed through manipulation of the scrolls bars to filter out the undesired components and access the component of interest to the user. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to learn from Jacoby to allow the user to have a plurality of filter criterion wherein based on a predetermined set of views. This plurality of filter criterion would allow the user more flexibility and help in accessing the component of interest to the user. Jacoby states that these scroll bars that are the plurality of predetermine filter criterion would allow the user to access a particular component, wherein when combined with Bormann would give more accessibility to the user for displaying components of interest. Hence, Bormann would have been motivated to learn from Jacoby to allow the user to choose the type of filter

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criteria from a plurality of predetermined filter criterion wherein these filter criterions are associated with predetermined views, giving Bormann's user more flexibility and choices when accessing a desired component.

Referring to claims 14 and 34, Bormann does not disclose that hardware components are physically located in a plurality of computers. Bormann does disclose performing management operations on hardware components as stated previously. Jacoby discloses displaying components that are related to a plurality of computers and further more performing management operations that would involve each of the plurality of computers (column 9, lines 25-38). It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to disclose that the hardware components are physically located in a plurality of computers. Bormann discusses an example of using distributed switch components to discuss the features of the invention but in addition adds that any types of hardware components are applicable to the features discussed in the invention (column 6, lines 52-56). Hence, it would have been obvious for Bormann to include hardware components that are associated with a plurality of computers and wherein any maintenance operations that would be applicable to these components would involve each of the plurality of computers that the components are a part of.

Referring to claim 15, Bormann and Jacoby disclose that at least two of the plurality of computers utilize different types of computer platforms (column 5, lines 15-20).

Referring to claims 21 and 39, Bormann does not disclose displaying the pictorial representation and indicating the selected status on a first computer and wherein at least a portion of the plurality of hardware components are physically located in second computer in communication with the first computer. Jacoby discloses displaying the pictorial representation

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and indicating the selected status on a first computer (column 3, lines 5-20) and in addition wherein the plurality of hardware components are physically located in a second computer in communication with the first computer (column 3, lines 24-27). It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to learn from Jacoby to display the pictorial representation and indicating the selected status on a first computer and wherein at least a portion of the plurality of hardware components are physically located in second computer in communication with the first computer. Jacoby and Bormann are both inventions that deal with graphically displaying hardware components and displaying status information concerning these components, wherein Jacoby in addition includes that these hardware components involve components of a plurality of computers involving networks and access information from various other computers to display the necessary data. Bormann discusses an example of using distributed switch components to discuss the features of the invention but in addition adds that any types of hardware components are applicable to the features discussed in the invention (column 6, lines 52-56). Hence, it would have been obvious for Bormann to include hardware components that are associated with a plurality of computers and wherein a plurality of computers involving networks would include accessing component data across these networks from various different computers.

Referring to claim 22, Bormann does not disclose that the plurality of hardware components is disposed in a computer selected from a group consisting of a single-user computer, a multi-user computer, a clustered computer, a multi-unit computer. Jacoby discloses that the plurality of hardware components is disposed in a computer selected from a group consisting of a single-user computer, a multi-user computer, a clustered computer, a multi-unit

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computer (column 2, lines 17-21). It would have obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to learn from Bormann to include that the plurality of hardware components is disposed in a computer selected from a group consisting of a single-user computer, a multi-user computer, a clustered computer, a multi-unit computer. Jacoby and Bormann are both inventions that deal with graphically displaying hardware components and displaying status information concerning these components, wherein Jacoby in addition includes that these hardware components involve components of a plurality of computers involving networks. Bormann discusses an example of using distributed switch components to discuss the features of the invention but in addition adds that any types of hardware components are applicable to the features discussed in the invention (column 6, lines 52-56). Hence, it would have been obvious for Bormann to include hardware components that are associated with a plurality of computers and wherein a plurality of computers involving networks would include various types of computers from which these components are accessed.

Referring to claim 42, Bormann also discloses automatically generating a pictorial representation on a computer display having a plurality of hardware components within the plurality of computers (Figure 4 and column 4, lines 27-32). Bormann also discloses performing at least one management operation on multiple selected hardware components among the plurality of hardware components in response to user input directed to that portion of the pictorial representation that represents the physical configuration of one of the multiple selected hardware components, wherein as disclosed by Bormann, any of the components may be selected the user to access information for performing management operations (column 6, lines 28-36). Bormann does not disclose that his invention for implementing this graphical user

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interface can access a plurality of computers to identify a plurality of hardware components resident in the plurality of computers. Jacoby does disclose accessing a plurality of computers to identify a plurality of hardware components resident in the plurality of computers (column 2, lines 17-30). It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to learn from Bormann to include that the plurality of hardware components are accessed from a plurality of computers to identify a plurality of hardware components resident in the plurality of computers. Jacoby and Bormann are both inventions that deal with graphically displaying hardware components and displaying status information concerning these components, wherein Jacoby in addition includes that these hardware components involve components of a plurality of computers involving networks. Bormann discusses an example of using distributed switch components to discuss the features of the invention but in addition adds that any types of hardware components are applicable to the features discussed in the invention (column 6, lines 52-56). Hence, it would have been obvious for Bormann to include hardware components that are associated with a plurality of computers and wherein the plurality of hardware components are accessed from a plurality of computers to identify a plurality of hardware components resident in the plurality of computers.

Referring to claim 43, Bormann discloses each of the plurality of hardware components is associated with at least one attribute and wherein each of the plurality of hardware components is associated with at least one of a plurality of diagrams (Figures 4 and 5). Bormann discloses that each of the plurality of hardware components is associated with at least one attribute and a method to compare attributes associated with the plurality of hardware components against a filter criterion and selecting those hardware components associated with the attributes that match

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the filter criterion, the filter criterion being user's filtering methods for choosing one component wherein one component is chosen leaving the other components filtered out (column 4, lines 40-45). Bormann dynamically generating the pictorial representation includes displaying the pictorial representation only the diagrams with the selected hardware components (Figure 5).

Response to Arguments

3. In view of the arguments stated on the Appeal Brief filed on 1/20/04, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

- (1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,
- (2) request reinstatement of the appeal.

If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

4. Applicant's arguments filed 1/20/04 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach the method for displaying components.

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Responses to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington D.C. 20231. If applicant desires to fax a response, central FAX number (703) 872-9306 may be used. NOTE: A Request for Continuation (Rule 60 or 62) cannot be faxed.

Please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT" for informal facsimile communications. For after final responses, please label "AFTER FINAL" or "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE" on the document. Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Namitha Pillai whose telephone number is (703) 305-7691. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (703) 308-3116.

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800.

Namitha Pillai
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 2173
April 2, 2004



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